

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #52

Summer Announcement #46, District 4 Subsistence Salmon Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

Based on the assessment information to date, the Chinook salmon run is poor, and additional measures are being taken to conserve Chinook salmon for escapement. In an effort to protect Chinook salmon as they pass through this long section of river, Subdistrict 4-A has been divided into two separate areas.

Subdistrict 4-A-Lower (from $\frac{3}{4}$ miles downstream of Old Paradise Village upstream to Stink Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Anvik and Grayling. Subdistrict 4-A-Lower will be open from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15, until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 17. This will be a 48-hour subsistence salmon fishing period with gillnets restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation.

Effective, 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, subsistence salmon fishing will return to the standard schedule of two 48-hour periods each week with gillnet and fish wheel restrictions discontinued. Subsistence salmon fishing periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays until 6:00 pm Fridays, and from 6:00 p.m. Sundays until 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays.

Subdistrict 4-A-Upper (from Stink Creek upstream to Cone Point): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Kaltag, Nulato, and Koyukuk. In Subdistrict 4-A-Upper subsistence salmon fishing will be open for a 24-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 16,

until 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 17 and a 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, until 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 20. During these subsistence salmon fishing periods gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size. Fish wheels must be equipped with a chute and all Chinook salmon caught in fish wheels must be returned to the water alive. Fish wheels must be closely attended while in operation.

The department will notify fishermen by July 20 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for this upper portion of Subdistrict 4-A.

Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C (from Cone Point to Illinois Creek): This area includes the mainstem Yukon River communities of Galena and Ruby. Subsistence salmon fishing in Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C will begin a reduced fishing schedule on Sunday, July 15. In Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C subsistence salmon fishing will be open from 6:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15, until 12:00 noon Monday, July 16, and from 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, until 12:00 noon Thursday, July 19. These will be 18-hour subsistence salmon fishing periods. The department will notify fishermen by July 20 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C.

In Subdistricts 4-B and 4-C, fishermen may use gillnets with a mesh size of 7.5 inches or smaller during open subsistence salmon fishing periods.

Koyukuk River: Subsistence salmon fishing continues to be open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, fish wheels may not be operated and gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Fishermen in all of District 4 should stand by for short notice news releases regarding the subsistence salmon fishing schedule to protect the first and second pulses of Chinook salmon as they pass through these subdistricts.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320, the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 455-1845.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.